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## REPORT

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INTRODUCTION: There have been relatively few monitored foreign radio commentaries about any of the President's three recent messages since issuance of the 11 January report on "Foreign Radio Reactions to the President's Budget Message." The Soviet radio gives wide distribution to Viktorov's long, PRAVDA article which, it is claimed, strips away the "royal hypocrisy and cheap demagoguery from the President's three messages" and "reveals... naked aggressive imperialism" as the "essence of Truman's program." And, belatedly, Moscow also issues its first commentary devoted exclusively to refutation of the State of the Union message's references to American democracy and freedom. Comments favorable to the President come from sources in Switzerland, Portugal, and Japan. Of some interest is that there has not been a single monitored reference to the President's messages from the Yucoslay radio.

"THE UNFORTUNATE ADVOCATE OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM": This is the title of Viktorov's PRAYDA article on the three messages. In it, he adds little that is new to the substance of Radio Moscow's previous excoriations. Characteristic of all three messages, says Viktorov, is the fact that:

"Each begins with a hymn of praise and ends on a funeral note. However much Truman tries to get away from facts, the glaring evidence of an unsatisfactory state in any given aspect forces him to make admissions which upset his own optimistic views. That is why Truman's messages are full of contradictory views."

The PRAYDA writer then proceeds to list such "contradictions" as that between the President's declaration that the economic downturn in 1949 had been arrested and his "admission" that the "recession caused concern and suffering to millions who have become unemployed." And in his foreign policy remarks, a contradiction is found between his "eloquence about peace (and,) in the same breath, his urging that the armaments race be speeded up." The budget's alleged allocation of the "lion's share" for aggressive purposes is also said to contradict his remarks about peace and to prove his "demagoguery and hypocrisy." And where Viktorov does not cite such alleged contradictions he supplies his own familiar Soviet assertions to refute the President.

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Viktorov also indulges in an attempt to identify current American policy, as enunciated by the President, with Hitlerite Germany. A previous commentary on the budget message did the same thing with reference to the current "scale of American war preparations." Viktorov, taking a somewhat different tack, charges that "the preaching and spreading of the American way of life to all countries and all races is very reminiscent of Hitler's propaganda, which also urged the spreading of the fascist New Order to the whole world, all countries and peoples." The article concludes, however, that the President's messages "will not and cannot deceive anyone. Facts are stronger than Truman and speak for themselves." But another Soviet commentator predicts that the "capitalist" Congress, as much of a "docile tool of Wall Street" as is Truman himself, will back the program enunciated by the President in support of the "monopolists'... plans for world domination."

**"AMERICAN THOUGHT-CONTROL":** A Soviet commentary by Nitin, the only one concerned exclusively with "exposing" the President's references to democracy and liberty, is broadcast only to North America. According to Nitin, the following are some of the "true facts" about liberty in the United States:

The average American, "constantly shadowed," lives in tension and fear.

Telephones are tapped; and FBI agents even record the books one reads.

The slightest sympathy with progressive ideas and the least show of dissatisfaction with things as they are results in FBI blacklisting.

"Every progressive organization" has been declared subversive.

Old civil servants are dismissed "on the informing of hired provocateurs and spies."

"Reactionary, terrorist organizations like the Ku Klux Klan, the American Legion, and others are becoming more active."

"The past year has witnessed further intensification of the anti-Communist hysteria," as illustrated by the Communist Party leaders' trial.

"Defense Secretary Johnson maintains a special army of spies to shadow workers" who "fight for their vital interests against the employer."

Illegal police seizures and searches are everyday affairs.

What is the reason, Nitin asks, for all this thought-control and persecution? The answer repeats a standard Soviet theme: "The U.S. imperialists want to launch another war; they want to compel the younger generation to shed its blood for Wall Street interests, and that is why the reactionaries hound progressive Americans."

**"VIRILE AND ENCOURAGING":** A French press service transmission quotes the independent-conservative Lisbon O SECVIO to the effect that the "President's message is addressed not only to the earth's mighty but also to the workers and little people.... It should be an example to all those who govern the nations." Reporting favorable Swiss press reactions, the Berne radio cites the opinion that "Truman is now sitting more firmly in the saddle than was ever the case with Roosevelt." Radio Tokyo finds that the messages "have shown great confidence."

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